

Sanitized - Approved For Release AGNIA-RDP82-00457R002

~~INFORMATION~~ ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CD NO.

COUNTRY Ecuador

DATE DISTR. 16 Mar 1949

SUBJECT Investigation of Terrorist Radio Program in Quito

NO. OF PAGES 1 25X1A2a

25A1A6a

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

ACQUIRED

DATE OF INFO. 12-17 February 1949

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1X6

1. An investigation to determine the extent of subversive influence and possibility of premeditation involved in the broadcasting of "The War of the Worlds" by Radio Quito on 12 February 1949 has disclosed that the top Ecuadoran Communists were prepared neither for the broadcast itself nor the accusations hurled at them after the panic and the destruction of the El Comercio building.
2. From sources inside the higher echelon of the National Headquarters of the Ecuadoran Communist Party in Quito, it has been tentatively ascertained that they knew nothing whatever in advance of the nature of the above-mentioned program nor did they have any plans for exploiting it. In this connection, it has been confirmed by various sources that the present attitude of the Ecuadoran Communist Party is not to provoke the incumbent administration nor to engage in public activities which would bring about repercussions against the Party.
3. Available information indicates that there were Communists within the "Radio Quito" station who had certain responsibility for putting on the program in question. In addition, there were Communists among the violent element of the mob which assaulted and burned the building. Two Communists have been identified among those who lost their lives in the fire.
4. On 16 February 1949 the Central Committee of the Party in Quito received word from the Coastal Regional Headquarters of the Party that Communists in Guayaquil received the news of the burning of El Comercio with considerable enthusiasm and that they were awaiting an opportunity to take similar action in Guayaquil. This information was received with certain alarm by the Central Committee members in Quito who have been greatly concerned over the rumors circulating in Quito which placed the blame on the Communists. They are apprehensive lest the authorities take action against the Party for the El Comercio incident.

This document is hereby regraded to
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letter of 16 October 1976 from the
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Next Review Date: 2008

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Document No.

NO CHANGE in Class.

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Class. ~~CHANGED~~ TO:

DDA Memo 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG. 77-1763

32-00457R0025
Date: 1978-10

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